

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT
-----Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1944

This Report is prepared on the lines asked for by the Minister of Health in Circular 2773. In accordance with his directions most information usually contained in the Report is omitted and filed for future reference.

Infectious Disease

There are no outstanding facts regarding the incidence of infectious disease in the district which call for comment. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

In view of a case of Smallpox occurring in the neighbouring Rural District of Sherborne a vaccination campaign was carried out early in April. Approximately 1,700 persons were vaccinated at the various Clinics held throughout the district.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year, a monthly treatment session being held at the First Aid Post, Gillingham for children in the northern part of the district, and at the Westminster Memorial Hospital, Shaftesbury, for children in the southern part of the district. Arrangements were made for those unable to attend either of these Centres to receive treatment at the surgeries of medical practitioners.

At the 31st December 92% of children of school age and 67% of children under school age had received treatment.

Scabies

The incidence of Scabies was very small throughout the year.

Venereal Disease

No cases of venereal disease were brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Evacuation

The Hostel at East Orchard, providing accommodation for eighteen children has been in continual use, and has proved of very great value.

Water Supplies

The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality during the year, with the exception of the private supplies which were not always up to the required standard. In accordance with the direction of the Ministry of Health, the Council's supplies were chlorinated.

As stated in the Report for 1943, it was hoped to put a new scheme at Melbury Abbas in operation to augment the Boyne Hollow supply. During the year, the Council obtained an Order under Defence Regulations 50 and 50A for the abstraction of not

exceeding 100,000 gallons per day from the Melbury Abbas Springs. An application is contemplated for this Order to be extended so that an abstraction of a further 50,000 gallons a day from the same source may be made. If such an Order is obtained there should then be sufficient water for the present requirements of the district.

Samples of the various public supplies were taken both before and after chlorination. 115 bacteriological examinations were made and were generally satisfactory with the exception of the private supplies at Bourton and Fontmell Magna.

Chemical analyses of the Boyne and Melbury Abbas supplies were satisfactory.

Approximately 80% of the population and dwelling houses are supplied from public water mains, and approximately 5% by means of standpipes.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy and help afforded to me by your Council and Officers throughout the year.

G. B. SCOTT,

Temporary Medical Officer
of Health.

11th June, 1945.